

different locations for telephoning; for example, at one or more locations of a company where the user is employed or at his home. Cordless telephones of this type usually have a numbers memory in which the user can store frequently used call numbers, if appropriate in conjunction with the name of a person to be called
5 and with respect to which he/she can set up a connection by simply selecting the number or the name in a displayed list.

If such a mobile terminal is used in connection with different base stations, there may arise the problem that the numbering plans of these different base stations vary. If, for example, the base stations belong to different local networks,
10 call numbers stored without a local area code can, in each case, only be dialed via the base station located in the relevant local network. Further problems may arise if an exchange identification code has to be preselected for one of the base stations but not for another, if abbreviated dialing numbers are used but only defined locally for one base station, or if extension numbers which are likewise only meaningful
15 for one base station are stored.

This obligates the users of such terminals to store in the numbers directory different numbers for the same persons to be called, whether they can be dialed depending on at which of the different mobile base stations the terminal is activated at a given point in time and, whenever they dial a number from the numbers
20 directory, they are obligated them to remember at which base station the terminal is activated at the time concerned. This makes use of the numbers directory difficult and prone to errors.

EP 0 874 529 A2 discloses a mobile communications terminal which, on entering a radio service area and registration in this radio service area receives the area and local codes and address information identifying the position of the radio
25 service area from the device providing the radio service, whereupon the mobile terminal determines on the basis of this information from its own address book the telephone numbers, names and addresses which are assigned to this radio service area, the addresses determined in this way being offered to the user on a display of
30 the mobile terminal.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In light of the above, the present invention provides a telecommunications terminal which makes the numbers memory more convenient and reliable to use. For this purpose, it is provided in the case of a mobile telecommunications terminal which can be activated at one of a number of different base stations in order to set up and conduct communication connections with a telecommunications network via this base station, and which has a numbers memory, a display for displaying names assigned to call numbers stored in the numbers memory and the ability to transfer a call number to a base station in response to the selection by a user of the displayed name assigned to the call number . It is possible to store, with respect to a call number stored in the numbers memory, information which indicates in connection with which of the base stations the call number can be dialed. To be certain of ruling out operating errors by the user, the display is preferably set up to display only those names among the ones assigned to the stored call numbers which can be dialed in connection with a designated base station.

This ensures that, when using the call numbers memory for dialing a subscriber, a user is only offered for selection those names of subscribers for which a call number valid for the designated base station is stored.

This information may be displayed in various ways. For example, in a numbers memory organized on the basis of columns there may be provided a numbers column for the stored call numbers and a stations column specifying for each call number the base station(s) in connection with which this call number can be dialed. The information also may, however, be represented by the distribution of the stored call numbers in the numbers memory, to be specific if, in the case of a numbers memory organized on the basis of columns, each of the different base stations to which the terminal can be connected is assigned a column and in each column the call numbers which can be dialed in connection with the assigned base station are stored.

During normal use of the terminal, the designated base station should be the one at which the terminal is activated. This may be achieved in various ways.

One way is to equip such a terminal with an operator control element for the user to designate the base station. This allows the latter, for example, to make the base station of his/her workplace the designated base station when he/she arrives at work in the morning, and when he/she gets home on the other hand to make it the
5 base station of his/her home. This rules out the possibility of inadvertently dialing at the workplace call numbers from the numbers directory which are only valid at home, and vice versa.

If a mobile terminal is activated at a base station, that is to say enters a state of readiness in which it is capable of receiving it for certain calls from the base
10 station or of sending requests for establishing a call connection to the station, there must necessarily first take place a data exchange between the base station and the terminal in which both reveal their identity to the other, in order to check the authorization to communicate with each other. If the terminal in this way establishes the identity of the base station at which it is activated, it is advantageous
15 if it makes this base station the designated base station. In this case, it is not necessary for the user to designate the base station because this is automatically performed by the terminal when it enters the transmitting/receiving range of a base station or is switched on within this range.

The terminal is, furthermore, advantageously able to be switched over
20 between a dialing operating state, in which only the names which can be dialed in connection with the designated base station are displayed and offered to a user for selection, and an editing operating state, in which all the data, names, call numbers and information on the assignment of a call number to a station stored in the numbers memory are displayed and can be changed by a user.

25 When a user enters a call number into the numbers memory of the terminal, he/she has the possibility of specifying in connection with which of the different base stations the call number is to be able to be dialed. If he/she does not specify anything in this respect, the information that the number can be dialed in connection with all the base stations is stored with respect to the call number
30 concerned. A user who uses the terminal only in connection with a single base

station or in connection with a number of base stations which use the same numbering plans, therefore, does not have to do anything more than in the case of conventional terminals when entering call numbers into the numbers memory.

Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in,
5 and will be apparent from, the following Detailed Description of the Invention and the Figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the individual functional groups of a terminal according to the present invention.

10 Figures 2A and 2B show two alternatives of the internal organization of a numbers memory.

Figures 3A and 3B show possible forms of a display element of the terminal in the dialing operating state.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 Figure 1 schematically shows the functional groups of a mobile telecommunications terminal which are important for understanding the present invention. These are a processor 1, which receives inputs of a user via an operator control element in the form of a keypad 2, a numbers memory 3, to which the processor 1 has reading and writing access, a display element, for example in the
20 form of an LCD display 4, and a transmitter/ receiver functional group 5 for the exchange of signaling data between the processor 1 and a base station (not represented); for example, for transmitting a call number selected by the user from the processor to the base station, and for transferring user information during the existence of a call connection.

25 Figure 2A shows a first example of the internal organization of the numbers memory 3. In the case considered here, the terminal can be connected to up to four different base stations, and the numbers memory 3 accordingly includes four numbers columns 8, each of which is respectively assigned to one of the base stations (a, b, c or d). A names column 9 is shared by all the numbers columns 8.
30 One row of the numbers memory 3 contains in the names column 9 a name of a

subscriber. The numbers columns 8 respectively contain in the same row call numbers of the subscriber concerned which are valid for the base station assigned to the numbers column. For the further description it is to be assumed as an example that the base station "a" corresponding to the first numbers column 8 is a
5 base station at the workplace of the user, and the station "b" corresponding to the second numbers column is a base station at the user's home.

Each stored subscriber respectively has a corresponding row of the numbers memory 3. Stored in the first row are the name "ABC" of a first subscriber and, in the numbers columns 8 corresponding to the base stations a and b, the call numbers
10 valid for the corresponding base stations. "ABC" could be, for example, a superior of the user who can be reached via the company's base station by an abbreviated dialing number "73" and an extension number "2318" and via the private base station b by using a local network code. The subscriber "DEF" stored in the second row may be, for example, a personal friend of the user and only can be reached via
15 a stored call number from the private base station b. A third subscriber "GHI", for example a colleague of the user, is assigned only a call number valid at the company base station a, which is, for example, an extension number of an in-house telecommunications system. Since, in the example considered here, the terminal is used only in connection with the two base stations a and b, the third and fourth
20 numbers columns 8 remain unoccupied. Similarly, memory locations in the numbers columns 8 corresponding to the base stations a and b remain unoccupied if no call number is stored for a subscriber in connection with the corresponding base station.

An organization of the numbers memory 3, which avoids leaving empty the
25 individual memory locations, is shown in Figure 2B. Here, the numbers memory 3 is divided into a names column 9, a single numbers column 8 and a stations column 10. Thus, for example, the first row of the numbers memory 3 contains in the names column the name "ABC", in the numbers column 8 the company call number of "ABC" and in the stations column a set bit with respect to each base station for
30 which the number is valid and a reset bit for all the other base stations. In the

terminal. In this way, a fully automatic change between different base stations is possible, and the use of the correct call numbers is ensured at each base station, even without the user having to know in the transmitting/receiving range of which base station the terminal is located.

5 The input of call numbers and names into the numbers memory 3 takes place in a known way. Following the input, the processor 1 provides the user with the choice via the display 4 of whether he/she would like to specify base stations for which the call number entered is valid. If the user answers no by pressing a corresponding key of the keypad 2, the entered call number is regarded as valid for
10 all the base stations, that is to say in the case of an organization of the numbers memory such as that shown in Figure 2A, the number is entered identically into all the numbers columns 8. In the case of the organization represented in Figure 2B, all the bits of the stations column 10 for the number concerned are set. For a user
15 base stations, the input of data into the numbers memory therefore does not involve any more effort than in the case of a terminal which does not have this capability.

 If the user answers yes, he/she is subsequently requested by the processor 1 to press one or more keys of the keypad 2 which are respectively assigned to a base station, and thereafter to press a confirmation key, to specify in this way one or
20 more base stations for which the number is valid.

 Clearly, the present invention can be used irrespective of the type of base station at which the terminal can be activated. For example, one or more of these base stations may be ones which have been set up by a private operator for his/her own use, for example within a home or company, whereas other base stations at
25 which the terminal likewise can be activated may belong, for example, to one or even various different public mobile telephone networks.

 Indeed, although the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set
30 forth in the hereafter appended claims.